

THE PLAYGROUND FOR CHILDREN IS ACCOMPLISHING A GREAT WORK

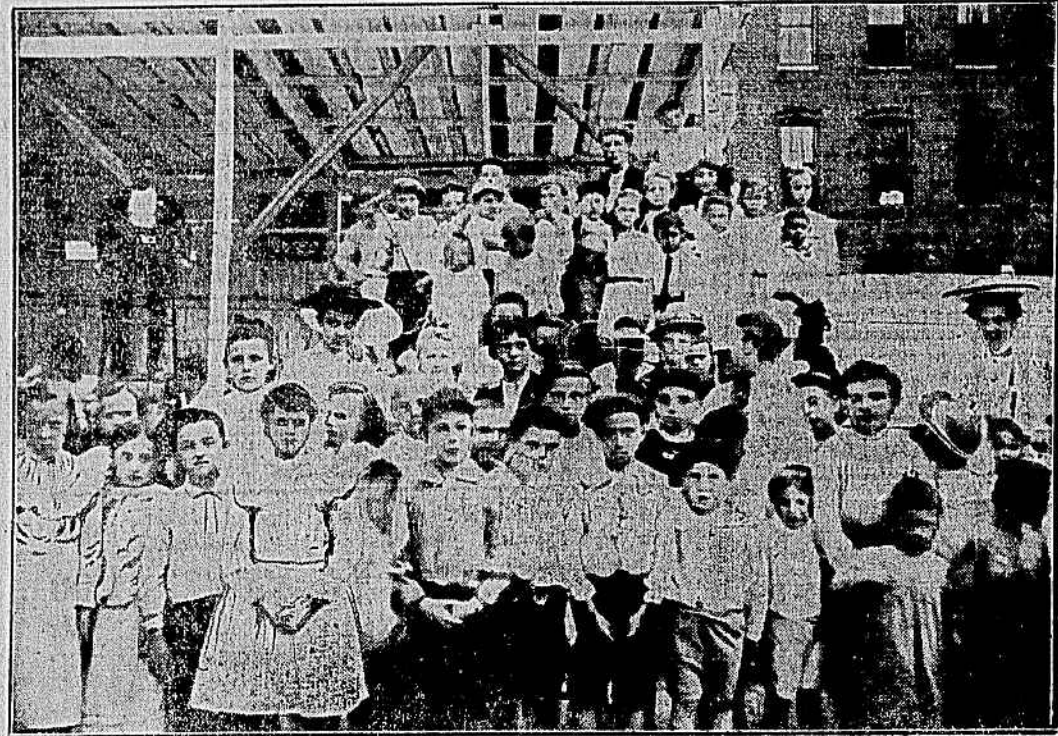
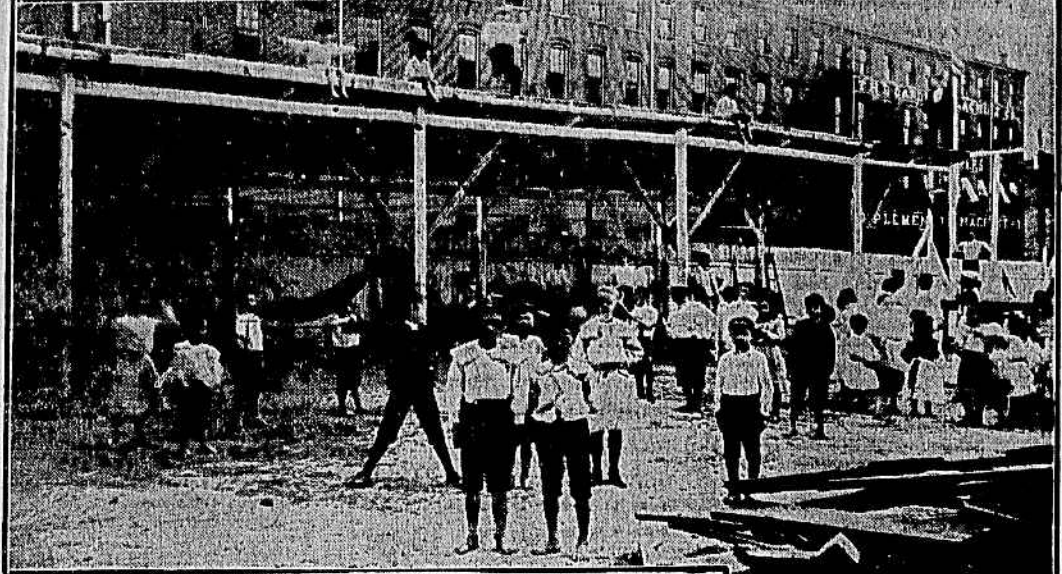
Has Done All Expected by Its Founders and More Besides.

DAILY SCENES DESCRIBED

How the Little Ones Spend the Day—Modelling in Sand, Military Manoeuvres.

The new play-ground opened June 10th at Nineteenth and Main Streets, behind the Methodist Institute, for the children of that vicinity, is doing a noble work for the moral and physical welfare and uplifting of those who take advantage of the opportunity it offers.

It is a work the need of which has been felt for a long time, and the Civic Improvement League, which established the mission, has every reason to feel satisfied with the result. Mr. T. A. Cary,



The accompanying pictures show the playground for children at Nineteenth and Main Streets, the first to be opened in Richmond. The photographer has caught the little ones at play in one picture and in the other they are lined up and "looking pleasant" especially for the camera.

the well known insurance man, donated \$300, and this money was devoted to the placing of gymnastic furnishings in the yard. These take the form of trapeze bars, swinging rings, punching bags, hoops and croquet sets. The grounds are also supplied with hammocks, chairs, swings and sand piles. In the last the younger children find a great source of amusement and industry in building models of all the constructive ideas which their tireless brain can concoct. The constructive turn is a very important principle of pedagogy, and great stress is laid upon this important feature of the mission.

Modelling in Sand.
The writer chanced to see a house and yard modelled in sand, under the direction of Miss Estelle De Saussure, one of the directors. The house was constructed by the younger children, who showed great interest and absorption in their work. Under the kindly and careful supervision of Miss De Saussure, the house was finished in almost perfect form, and the delight manifested by the small builders was most intense.

The directors, Misses Ada L. Arundel and Estelle De Saussure, have the management of the play-ground, and are as-

isted by Mrs. W. P. Turner, who is the assistant director. Mr. Charles B. Cooke is president of the Civic Improvement League, and Mr. L. McK. Jenkins is secretary. It is to these noble men and women that the city owes a debt of gratitude for their kindness and philanthropy.

At present there are 374 children registered on the books of the mission, and no doubt this large number will soon be increased. The grounds are opened at 9 o'clock, and the morning programme is as follows:

From 9 to 9:30, the yard is cleared (by the children); at 9:30 o'clock, the flag is raised and a flag song sung; 9:30 to 10 is free play; 10 to 11, raffia work, the making of baskets; from 11 to 11:30, ring games; from 11:30 to 12, drilling; at 12 o'clock the children are dismissed, and march out in line to return again at 4 o'clock. During the afternoon programme, as follows:

From 4 to 4:30, yard cleaning; at 4:30, raising flag and singing flag songs; from 4:30 to 5, raffia work; from 5 to 5:30, ring games and songs; from 5:30 to 6:30, archery; from 6:30 to 7, drilling; at 7 o'clock the dismissal for the day.

Twice a week, from half-past 8 to half-past 9, gymnastic instruction is given by Mr. Kaufman, of the Y. M. C. A. In addition to the gymnastic apparatus,

there are free baths, which the children may use twice a week.

A Military Company.
To encourage the attendance of the children and to arouse their interest more strongly, the boys are formed into a military company, having officers of captain, first and second lieutenant, first, second and third sergeants. There are also two yard captains, whose business it is to look after the yard and to see that it is kept clean and tidy. All the children attending three successive days are given a P. M. badge, which they wear as a mark of distinction and honor.

There are papers of youthful interest for the older ones to read, and those too young to derive much amusement from that source, the directors, Misses Arundel and Miss De Saussure, gather around their knees and tell them stories, such as little ones love to hear. The older boys also take much interest in archery and drilling. In the latter they are given exercises twice a week.

Ideals of health, cleanliness and proper amusement are inculcated, and no disorderly or quarrelsome propensities are allowed on the grounds. But of this there has been little or no tendency shown. Under the wise supervision of the directors, the little ones get on very agreeably among themselves, and the occasion is rare indeed when their interferences are

needed. That the work is a success is shown by the fact of the large daily attendance. In the morning there is an average of fifty, and in the afternoon an average of one hundred in attendance. This makes a very good showing, when we consider the fact that a large percentage of the children often have to remain away to work.

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Only a Beginning.
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